

**AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 7-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1-6 and 9-12 as follows. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are currently pending.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A removable device which is attached/detached to/from a universal peripheral device interface of a computer executing an automatic startup script stored in a device of a specified type when the device is connected thereto, comprising:

~~and which includes~~ a ROM or a read-writable storage device as a main storage device[.]; and

~~the removable device comprising means~~ a simulation unit configured to return for returning a signal indicating that the device is of a [[the]] specified type in which an automatic startup script is stored in the storage device and executed by a computer to which the device is attached, in response to an inquiry signal concerning the type of the device sent from the computer upon connection to the universal peripheral device interface.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The removable device according to claim 1, wherein ~~comprising~~

~~means for returning a~~ the simulation unit returns an absence signal representing an absence of media at least once, and then ~~returning~~ returns a presence signal representing a presence of the media in response to inquiry signals as to a [[the]] presence of media repeated via the universal peripheral device interface.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The removable device according to ~~claims~~ claim 1 [[or 2]], further comprising:

a plurality of unit devices allocated in single removable device; and

hub ~~means for allocating~~ unit configured to allocate data exchange with the computer side to each of the unit devices.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The removable device according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 3]], wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup script is stored in the storage device in advance, and

the auto-starting program, along with performing password-based authentication, performs, or lets the removable device perform, at least either formatting of specified data or termination of the program when an incorrect password is entered a predetermined number of times.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The removable device according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 4]], wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup script is stored in the storage device in advance, and

the auto-starting program establishes associations between desired file extensions and desired programs on a temporary basis only while the removable device is in use.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The removable device according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 5]], wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup script is stored in the storage device in advance, and

the auto-starting program is configured:

to handle files that have been deleted in a storage area of the storage device recognized as a removable disk by the computer as candidate files marked for deletion in a trash bin specific to the removable disk, and

with respect to the candidate files marked for deletion, to accept and execute an operation of displaying the files contained therein, an operation of restoring a desired file, and an operation of completely erasing some or all of the files.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The removable device according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 6]],

wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup script is stored in the storage device in advance, and

the execution of the auto-starting program is preconditioned by password-based authentication.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The removable device according to ~~any of claims claim 1 to 6 or 9~~,

wherein an auto-starting program launched by the automatic startup script is stored in the storage device in advance, and

the auto-starting program is an electronic mail program which, along with operating based on account information contained in the removable device, stores sent and received electronic mail data in the removable device.

Claim 11 (New): A method for launching a program, comprising:

executing an installer program for installing a detection program, which is stored in a removable device attached/detached to/from a universal peripheral device interface of a computer, such that the detection program is installed in the computer;

executing the detection program a computer in advance; and

launching, when the removable device is attached to a universal peripheral device interface of the computer, a program corresponding to specified data in the removable device by the detection program.

Claim 12 (New): A removable device attached/detached to/from a universal peripheral device interface of a computer, comprising:

a ROM or read-writable storage device as its main storage device;

a boot controller configured to send a reply representing a flexible disk drive in response to access from a BIOS of the computer via the universal peripheral device interface and to boot the computer by providing information stored in the storage device and used for starting an operating system of the computer.

Claim 13 (New): A removable device which is attached/detached to/from a universal peripheral device interface of a computer executing an automatic startup script stored in a device of a specified type when the device is connected thereto, comprising:

a ROM or a read-writable storage device as a main storage device; and

means for returning a signal indicating that the device is of a specified type in which an automatic startup script is stored in the storage device and executed by a computer to which the device is attached, in response to an inquiry signal concerning the type of the device sent from the computer upon connection to the universal peripheral device interface.

Claim 14 (New): A removable device attached/detached to/from a universal peripheral device interface of a computer, comprising:

a ROM or read-writable storage device as its main storage device; and

means for sending a reply representing a flexible disk drive in response to access from a BIOS of the computer via the universal peripheral device interface and booting the computer by providing information stored in the storage device and used for starting an operating system of the computer.